

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 58th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 336**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN DALE MAHLUM**, on April 22, 2003 at  
9:00 A.M., in Room 335 Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Dale Mahlum, Chairman (R)  
Rep. John Brueggeman, Vice-Chairman (R)  
Sen. Mike Sprague (R)  
Sen. Debbie Shea (D)  
Rep. Michael Lange (R)  
Rep. George Golie (D)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Doug Sternberg, Legislative Branch  
Mari Prewett, Committee Secretary

**Please Note.** These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 336, 4/18/2003  
Executive Action:

**Motion:** REP. GOLIE moved that AMENDMENT SB033606.ads BE ADOPTED.

**Discussion:**

Doug Sternberg, Legislative Services, explained the amendment, attached as Exhibit 1, and its impact on the bill.

**EXHIBIT (cch85sb0336a01)**

SEN. SPRAGUE pointed out that the bill had not gotten out of the House without amendments. He went on to ask if they came to a compromise in the Conference Committee if the bill could be gotten through the House. REP. BRUEGGEMAN commented that he felt the problem had been with the Fish and Game. He went on to say that he felt the bill would pass on the floor of the House.

SEN. SPRAGUE and SEN. LANGE discussed the failure of a similar bill, its fiscal impact, SB 336 and its fiscal impact, and whether or not they could use the failure of the first bill as a selling point to pass the present bill.

SEN. LANGE stated that if they took the money away from the fishing access funds the bill would not pass.

SENS. SPRAGUE, LANGE and MAHLUM further discussed how much money that Fish, Wildlife and Parks had available and whether or not that would kill the bill. They then talked about the fact that Fish, Wildlife and Parks would be broke in five to six years.

REP. LANGE pointed out that the bill was for maintenance of parks.

There was further discussion regarding the time frame in which Fish, Wildlife and Parks would be broke and the fact that the bill would genuinely help to prevent that scenario.

REP. GOLIE expressed his support for the proposed amendments.

**Motion/Vote:** Motion that AMENDMENT SB033606.ads BE ADOPTED carried 6-0 by voice vote.

***{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 9.2}***

The amendment requested by REP. GOLIE was distributed to the Committee and is attached as Exhibit 2.

**EXHIBIT (cch85sb0336a02)**

**Doug Sternberg, Legislative Services**, explained the amendment to the Committee.

**Motion:** REP. GOLIE moved that AMENDMENT SB033605.ads BE ADOPTED.

**Discussion:**

REP. GOLIE discussed the bill and the amendment and explained how to sell the amendment on the floor.

*{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 9.2 - 12.5}*

REP. LANGE spoke in opposition to the amendment and talked about the need to fund fishing access sites.

REP. BRUEGGEMAN stated the problem with 287 had been that people were uncomfortable with the concept of putting a decal on their vehicles. He went on to talk about the need to fund both fishing access sites as well as the parks. He concluded that as the amendment was striking fishing access sites he would have to oppose it.

SEN. SPRAGUE stated that if they did not provide funding for the fishing access sites they would not be funding weed control.

SEN. SPRAGUE asked Doug Monger if they had the flexibility in their budget to use part of the funds for fishing access sites. He went on to ask if they should just close a few of the access sites as a reality check on why they needed to be funded. **Mr. Monger** responded that if the amendment went through as proposed the money could only be spent on State parks. He went on to suggest a conceptual amendment that they reduce the 50 cents for fishing access sites down to 25 cents.

SEN. SHEA asked the House Members what their reaction would be to Mr. Monger's suggestion and if they could support the conceptual amendment.

SEN. SHEA, REP. LANGE and REP. GOLIE discussed Mr. Monger's proposed conceptual amendment and how the House would react to it.

REP. GOLIE remarked that they were dealing with a park's bill and he brought his amendment forth to keep it a park's bill.

REP. BRUEGGEMAN stated that in the spirit of trying to find a middle ground he would not have a problem with the proposed conceptual amendment.

There was further discussion on the proposed conceptual amendment.

**SEN. SPRAGUE** and **Mr. Monger** discussed the problems involved in weed control and the need to maintain the budget at the present level. **Mr. Monger** indicated that the conceptual amendment would keep their budget at a workable level.

*{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 12.5 - 28}*

**SEN. SPRAGUE, REP. LANGE** and **Mr. Monger** continued to discuss the amount of revenue that would be generated if the conceptual amendment were adopted.

**Substitute Motion:** **REP. GOLIE** made a substitute motion that **THE CONCEPTUAL AMENDMENT TO SB 336 BE ADOPTED.**

There was further clarification as to how the conceptual amendment would work into the bill.

**Vote:** Motion that the **CONCEPTUAL AMENDMENT TO SB 336 BE ADOPTED** carried 6-0 by voice vote.

**Motion/Vote:** **REP. GOLIE** moved that the **CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BE ADOPTED.** Motion carried 6-0 by voice vote.

*{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 8}*

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 9:30 A.M.

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SEN. DALE MAHLUM, Chairman

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MARI PREWETT, Secretary

JB/DM/MP

**EXHIBIT** (cch85sb0336aad)